

## Chapter 7

### WILDLIFE

Almost 26% of Chatham Township is Great Swamp land. This is an asset to be treasured and preserved by careful management of the lands surrounding the Great Swamp. This results in an abundance of wildlife species that is much greater than in the adjoining communities. It is an asset that contributes to the special character of Chatham Township.

#### Animals

Large animals, such as bison, elk, cougar, and bobcat, disappeared from New Jersey by the mid- 19th century. The beaver, marten, river otter, and porcupine also succumbed to the pressures of civilization at about the same time. The white-tailed deer, on the other hand, while almost annihilated by 1890, has since increased in population to the extent that it is now necessary to manage the size of the herd to the availability of range and food supply.

#### Chatham Township's Animal Wildlife

Wild animals in Chatham Township today are limited to those native species which have been able to adjust to a people-oriented environment. They tend to be furtive creatures, many of them nocturnal in habit. They always keep a safe distance between themselves and man and his domesticated animals.

#### Threatened and Endangered Species

Specific sightings of threatened and endangered species in Chatham Township have been recorded by the New Jersey DEP, mostly in the Great Swamp. However, they have also been found outside the Swamp. Blue spotted salamanders have been found in the vicinity of the Tanglewood Wastewater Treatment Plant and Recycling Center as well as in Green Village. Wood turtles have been reported in the Loantaka Brook valley as well as along the Passaic River. Barred owls, great blue herons, bog turtles, and red shouldered hawks add to the special species sighted in Chatham Township.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Birds of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*, US. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1992.

*Environmental Resources*, Madison Environmental Commission, 1982.

*Mammals of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1991.

*Reptiles, Amphibians & Fishes of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1994.